

Two New Species of the Genus *Niso* (Mollusca) from the South China Sea

By

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In the shells collected from off Formosa in the South China Sea by coral fishing boats, five species of the genus *Niso* are found, namely *N. regia* KURODA et HABE, *N. goniosstoma* (SOWERBY), *N. hizenensis* KURODA et HABE, *N. rubrapicata* sp. nov. and *N. nakayasui* sp. nov. These two new species are described herewith. The writer wishes to express his sincere thanks to Mr. Kiyoshi NAKAYASU who brought them for his disposal.

Niso rubrapicata sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Shell small for the genus, thin, smooth, glassy and polished. Spire highly elevated, turreted and with 13 slightly convex whorls, of which 5 earlier embryonic whorls are chestnut brown in colour and remaining teleoconch whorls light yellow with a narrow brown band above the suture, but on the body whorl the narrow brown band becomes vanishing towards the aperture. Body whorl well rounded at the periphery. Umibilicus deeply and narrowly perforated and surrounded by obtuse periumbilical keel.

Aperture thin, ovate. Outer margin gently curved and columellar margin arcuate and angular at the distal end as the ending of periumbilical keel.

Height 7.8 mm and breadth 3.3 mm (holotype specimen preserved in the National Science Museum, NSMT-Mo 50148).

Height 8.0 mm and breadth 3.1 mm (paratype specimen preserved in the National Science Museum, NSMT-Mo 50149).

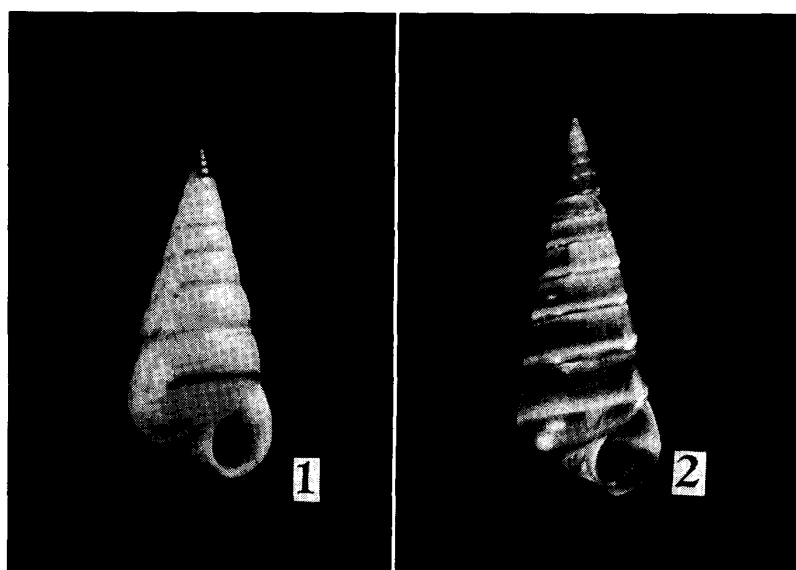
Height 7.0 mm and breadth 3.0 mm (paratype specimen preserved in the National Science Museum, NSMT-Mo 50150).

Height 10.1 mm and breadth 4.1 mm (specimen from off Nagata, Yakushima, south of Kyushu, about 250 m deep; NSMT-Mo 50151).

Type-locality. At the coral reefs off Formosa in the South China Sea, about 100–150 m deep).

Distribution. Besides the type-locality, off Yakushima south of Kyushu.

Remarks. This new species differs from the allied species *N. yokoyamai* KURODA et HABE and *N. hizenensis* KURODA et HABE in having well rounded body whorl and



Figs. 1-2. — 1. *Niso rubrapicata* sp. nov. (holotype specimen). — 2. *Niso nakayasui* sp. nov. (holotype specimen).

chestnut brown earlier whorls.

Niso nakayasui sp. nov.

(Fig. 2)

Shell medium in size for the genus, rather thin but solid, smooth and polished, highly elevated and turreted and with 14 whorls, chestnut brown, paler to the apex and with bluish white narrow spiral band just below the suture and above the angular periphery. Each whorl slightly overhanging the lower whorl, forming angular periphery and incised suture. Body whorl about one-third the shell height, chestnut brown with a very narrow yellowish band along the suture and just above the periphery and at the periumbilical keel. Umbilicus narrowly and deeply perforated and surrounded by the periumbilical keel.

Aperture thin, ovate, angular at the anterior corner as the ending of periumbilical keel. Outer margin gently curved, but with an obtuse angle at the periphery. Columellar margin arcuate and slightly reflexed.

Height 15.1 mm and breadth 5.2 mm (holotype specimen preserved in the National Science Museum, NSMT-Mo 50152).

Height 14.8 mm and breadth 5.7 mm (paratype specimen preserved in the National Science Museum, NSMT-Mo 50153).

Type-locality. Off Formosa in the South China Sea, about 100 m deep.

Remarks. This new species closely resembles *N. matsumotoi* KURODA et HABE in shape and coloration, but has the upper whorl hanging over the lower one, forming an incised suture.

Besides the two new species, 15 species of this genus have been reported from the

western Pacific region as listed in the following lines:

- Niso brunnea* (SOWERBY, 1834) Loc. Philippine and Japan.
Niso candida A. ADAMS, 1854 Loc. Philippine.
Niso dorcus KURODA et HABE, 1950 Loc. Japan.
Niso goniostoma A. ADAMS, 1854 Loc. Philippine, South China Sea and Japan.
Niso hizenensis KURODA et HABE, 1950 Loc. South China Sea and Japan.
Niso marmorata (SOWERBY, 1834) Loc. Philippine.
Niso matsumotoi KURODA et HABE, 1961 Loc. Japan.
Niso quadrasi BOETTGER, 1894 Loc. Philippine.
Niso regia KURODA et HABE, 1950 Loc. South China Sea and Japan.
Niso sandwichensis SOWERBY, 1866 Loc. Hawaii.
Niso smithi SCHEPMAN, 1909 Loc. Indonesia.
Niso stenomphala KURODA et HABE, 1950 Loc. Japan.
Niso tetsuakii HABE, 1949 Loc. Japan.
Niso venosa SOWERBY, 1895 Loc. Pakistan and Indonesia.
Niso yokoyamai KURODA et HABE, 1950 Loc. Japan.

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